

CONVENTION HEARS REPORTS AND ADDRESS BY REV. DR. HAWTHORNE

NOTABLE REPORTS OF YEAR'S WORK MADE BY CONVENTION BOARDS

SCENE IN BAPTIST CONVENTION HALL SHOWING ENTIRE CONVENTION

DR. HAWTHORNE DELIVERING GREAT ADDRESS

'EXTENDS GREETING TO VENERABLE MINISTER

Extension Along All Lines Indicated In Formal Statements Submitted at Meeting in Auditorium Yesterday Morning.

The annual reports of the three leading boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, which were the feature of the great meeting of that body yesterday, were intensely interesting to the thousands of workers assembled in the auditorium.

First came the statement of the work of the foreign mission board, located in this city. In many respects this report, extracts from which were read by Rev. Dr. R. J. Willingham, the corresponding secretary, was the best that has been made to the convention in the sixty-one years of its existence. It shows that the Baptists of the South are more seriously aroused on the subject of spreading the gospel in foreign lands than they ever were before. More money was contributed by the churches during the past year—the sum of \$403,000 having actually been paid in, nearly \$90,000 in excess of any previous year's contribution. More missionaries are now in the field than ever before and more converts have been reported. A striking feature of the report is that more converts are now made annually than in all of the first forty years of the board's existence.

Dr. Willingham Enthusiastic.

It is no wonder that in presenting this report Dr. Willingham was in an enthusiastic mood.

One thing which made him very cheerful was the fact that the contribution for the year was large enough to enable him to complete the work that had been marked out for him, settle all bills promptly and come to the convention with a balance sheet that shows not a dollar of debt hanging over the board. This has not always been the case, and it was due to the annual meeting of the convention asking for money to pay off debts contracted during the year.

WHAT MISSIONARIES ARE DOING IN FOREIGN LANDS

Contributions to Cause Larger Than Ever Before and More Converts Being Made—Board Looks for Advance Along Broad Lines.

The report of the foreign mission board, presented by Rev. Dr. R. J. Willingham, shows that the churches contributed for the past convention year to foreign missions as follows:

Alabama	27,582.28
Arkansas	10,001.32
District of Columbia	7,574.26
Georgia	64,318.99
Indiana Territory	1,515.74
Kentucky	35,544.83
Louisiana	7,438.45
Maryland	17,460.18
Mississippi	7,719.01
Minnesota	13,536.12
North Carolina	30,481.77
Oklahoma	1,104.47
South Carolina	33,423.03
Tennessee	17,980.18
Virginia	28,271.10
West Virginia	50,178.58
Other Sources	7,247.28

Total \$403,311.54

Every State save one shows an increase over the contributions for the previous year. The total increase within the bounds of the convention being \$88,562.70. In the matter of contributions Georgia leads, Texas comes next, and Virginia holds third place in the column. It once held first place, but Georgia and Texas have been growing.

Will Do Better.

Speaking of the splendid financial results, the report says:

"We look at our contribution for the past year (\$403,311.54) and rejoice when we say, 'This is far ahead of any former year.' Then we turn to the \$1,000,000 goal and remember that we are only a few years away from reaching it. We have been making a beginning—only a beginning. But we rejoice that we have reached it. We have reached it by the number of individuals and small churches giving the salary of a native preacher in China (\$100). Quite a number of others give the salary of a missionary (\$600). And we praise God that a goodly number of individuals and churches this past year have gone up to \$1,000. Our people are learning to look at the Crucified One, and through His love at a lost world. Several churches gave more for foreign missions last year than for pastor's salaries. Some churches have given \$1,000 or over. Christ is leading us. He loves a lost world. Blessed those pastors and churches which keep closest to Him in His onward march of conquest."

Speaking in a general way of the work in foreign fields, the report says:

"Our missionaries on the front line have stoutly met dangers and difficulties. Some have fallen, weak and faint, but the banner of the cross has gone on, and they send back the glorious report of 2,239 baptisms during the year. Is not this enough to make every one among us join in thanksgiving and praise to God? After we had been working as a board for forty-five years, we report in 1896 a total of 1,213, and now God gives us over that number in one year. Brethren, surely we ought to praise Him and plan for greater things in His work."

Marvelous Development.

Continuing on another line the report says:

"Our work has under God developed marvelously. We are no longer a weak band with a few laborers and meagre visible results in foreign lands. Our God has enlarged us. We have 400 laborers at the front with thousands of converts, and thousands more being taught of Christ. We have schools, theological seminaries, printing plants, medical dispensaries and hospitals."

The report lays great stress upon the good work of the schools. It says: "No one can estimate the worth of these lands of darkness. To send the children of the converts to native schools means to turn them over to heathen practices and idolatry. To give them no schools means for them to grow up in ignorance. We must help them. These children of our converts, trained not in heathen but Christian homes, are the hope of the future. Not only are boys trained, but girls, form-

ing the year. Yet, as the report shows, the contributions to-day, though notable, have not been as large as the ability of the church would seem to be able to guarantee. The total receipts were a little more than \$400,000. The board hopes to go largely beyond the half-million mark for the year upon which it is just entering.

The Sunday-school and Bible board, which is comparatively speaking, one of the newest of the convention's enterprises, being only sixteen years of age, made a most gratifying report.

This board, which is what may more properly be called the publishing house of the Southern Baptists, is largely a business concern, and its plant in Nashville, Tenn., for publishing books, tracts and other literature is a paying concern. So wisely has Rev. Dr. J. M. Frost, the able secretary, managed the affairs of the concern it is now on a good basis, and is not only supplying the churches with all necessary Sunday-school and church literature but is making a profit, which is covered into the treasuries of the other boards for the purpose of spreading the gospel.

Home Missions.

Though not so fortunate as to be able to report itself entirely out of debt, the home mission board, which has headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., and which has charge of the work of spreading the gospel in the destitute sections of the country, on the frontier and in Cuba, the Philippines and the Canal zone, had a very gratifying exhibit to make to the convention. Rev. Dr. B. D. Gray, the secretary, made such enthusiastic running comment that it is more than likely he aroused an enthusiasm sufficient to have this debt quickly wiped out. This the board has had to go to the annual meeting of the convention asking for money to pay off debts contracted during the year.

erly despoiled and degraded, are taken and brought up to know that woman has a head and heart and that her Creator wants her lifted up and exalted—the equal if not the superior of the man.

Our theological schools are turning out excellently trained men. These men know the language, customs, manners and life of their people. Then also the natives can live on much less than a foreign missionary. In China we can employ ten native preachers for what it will take to support one foreign missionary. Now that the natives are converted and want to preach, it is wisdom for us to train them.

"We have seven theological seminaries in our various fields with over a hundred men in training. Some of these schools need better facilities, but we hope the time has come to help them.

"A missionary in China writes: 'I am more and more convinced that the wisest missionary will henceforth spend most of his time training the native preachers. They will then evangelize this country more speedily and with fewer blunders than we shall be able to do. I have read many of the best books on Sunday-school work, and in addition to my experience in America, have now had nearly seven years of active work in China. But thoroughly practical solution of some of the problems which have not been solved by the suggestions by very humble Christians during our institute. They already know the Chinese heart, a necessary knowledge gained by most missionaries after many years of painful effort—by some never. So with the training they receive in the Bible, and with sufficient development of moral character, they ought to do the work, at least as efficiently as the missionary, and with far less expense.'"

Printing Plants.

"With the introduction of Christianity among any people there comes enlightenment. It is not long before the people begin to study for themselves, so that it is necessary to give them the right kind of literature. Some of the nations already have much literature, but it is important that they have God's word and Christian books. The missionaries find that the printing plant is a necessity. One needs but to turn to the wonderful changes which are going on in Japan and China. These people are acquiring knowledge. Not only the men, but the women are reading. We ought, as rapidly, as possible, to give them the very best Christian literature. Our printing presses in these countries are turning out millions of pages to carry the light into these lands of darkness. We regret that we have not been able to help these excellent aids to our work as much as they have needed and deserved during the year."

The report declares that experience has shown that the medical missionary is a mighty power under God to open heathen eyes and hearts and adds:

"Our board has twelve medical missionaries, and these are doing a great work. However, they need better facilities for their work. One of our physicians has pleaded for a hospital which will cost \$2,000 or \$3,000. When we remember that for three years he has averaged over five thousand patients a year, and that he has worked in a little room, eight by twelve feet, it ought to stir our hearts to give the needed hospitals. The Christian physician operates upon the diseased bodies and at the same time he tells of the Great Physician. In the foreign lands the Christian hospital is known as the Jesus Hospital. Thousands in this way have their hearts turned towards the Christian religion. Like other departments of our work our medical stations have not received the aid which they deserve."

A Clarion Call.

Further on the report discusses the great work in hand and the prospects ahead, and then sounds this clarion call:

"The wonderful development of our work has brought along with it heavy responsibilities and a great need. Our missionaries, who have been sent out need homes in which to live. The thousands of converts need chapels in which to worship. The medical missionaries need hospitals. Seminaries and printing houses need better equipment. God has blessed us. If we come up to the opportunities which He has presented before us, we must greatly enlarge our gifts. The board could wisely expend outside of our regular gifts \$200,000 for permanent, needed improvements at once. We hardly know how to call on our convention for all of this money in addition to the amount which is needed to enter the wide-open doors and what we do ask our brethren to think and pray about these pressing calls which the Master has put by His providence upon us. During the past year a number of our brethren and sisters have given large amounts—several of them giving over \$1,000, and one even going to \$2,500. Let us think how God is putting tens and hundreds of thousands into the hands of our people. The time is at hand when we should be getting some very large gifts for this work. Let us pray God to open the hearts of those who are entrusted with large means, to do great things for His servants and those who have less may also give liberally."

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